

IN THIS ISSUE:

Kyodan Minister Wins Major Court Case  
Charismatic Renewal In Japan  
Miscellaneous News  
Headline-making Events



## KYODAN MINISTER WINS MAJOR COURT CASE

After several sleepless nights more than four years ago, a Kyodan minister decided to follow his conscience and not pay a ¥10,000 (then \$28) fine imposed by a Kobe court.

Last week the persistence of Rev. Shunichi Tanetani paid off in a landmark decision for church-state relations in Japan. The central issue in the case was the extent of a pastor's right to render pastoral care to persons whom the police are trying to apprehend.

On February 20 Judge Kazunori Sekiya of the Kobe Summary Court accepted the pastor's claim that freedom of religion as guaranteed by the Constitution must be given maximum respect even in a police investigation. The police and the prosecutor had argued that the 47-year old pastor of Amagasaki Church was aiding fugitives from the law and was interfering in the duty of the state to "protect public welfare".

The "fugitives" were two students at Amagasaki Senior High School who had taken part in radical activities at their school since January 1970, protesting the system of uniform examinations to be given throughout the prefecture. After a prolonged dispute, a number of students went on a hunger strike and then barricaded their classrooms in the fall of 1970.

In October 1970, the protesting students fled from the school after being discovered by a school watchman. One of the students went to his home on the compound of Amagasaki Church and soon told Rev. Tanetani about the struggle at the school. A second student corroborated the story.

The pastor criticized both students and suggested that they stay away from Amagasaki. He sent the students to Rev. Shogo Suzuki, pastor of Tatsuno Church, and asked him to allow the students "to cool their heads". He suggested that Rev. Suzuki give them spiritual advice and some physical work.

Ten days later both boys voluntarily turned themselves in at the police station. They were questioned for four days by police and then sent to the Amagasaki branch of the Kobe Family Court. The court ruled that the students' actions were negligible and took no action against them. The school also acted generously--the boys were to be expelled but allowed to re-enroll six months later.

The case appeared closed until November 10 when the two pastors were arrested and charged under two articles of the Criminal Code. Although they were soon released, Rev. Tanetani was subsequently fined ¥10,000 by the Kobe Summary Court. He refused to pay and thus admit that he had committed a criminal misdemeanor. A nation-wide support group and a battery of lawyers rallied to his defense. The long arduous and costly court struggle had begun.

The series of court hearings over the years resembled a theological forum, with

EDITORS:

Subscriptions: JAPAN ¥1,500; OVERSEAS Airmail \$ 8.00, Seamail \$6.00

John Nakajima, Jim Stentzel, Lee Seaman

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL Room 24, 551 Totsuka-machi 1-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160 Japan

NOTE: Permission to reprint is granted to all media on conditions that (1) full credit is given and (2) a copy is sent to the editors.



Court Case (cont)

both prosecution and defense frequently quoting Scripture to define their concept of the church, its ministry and its mission.

Rev. Tanetani told the court, "If I merely expelled the students from the church at that time, they would have joined other extremist students and led a vagabond's life from one hide-out to another. It is the duty of a member of the clergy to save stray sheep, and I never imagined that I might later be held criminally responsible for acting on my religious principles".

The defense lawyers, headed by Eigoro Aoki and Kenkichi Nakadaira, argued that Rev. Tanetani did only what he is commissioned to do--to minister to those in need. They said that any state denial of this fundamental pastoral right would be a violation of the freedom of religion clause in the Constitution.

The prosecution maintained that Rev. Tanetani's aims, means and methods were improper and illegal as they impeded police investigations. It insisted on the police right and duty to protect the public welfare by quickly and efficiently apprehending criminals.

Judge Sekiya, in acquitting Rev. Tanetani, said that, when pastoral activities serving the public welfare come into conflict with the law, such cases must be judged from "a broad and common-sense point of view", instead of always giving the protection and benefit of the law to the state in the name of public welfare.

While saying that the church is not outside of the law, the ruling says that the state, in protecting its own interests, must be tolerant. The judge ruled that Rev. Tanetani acted genuinely out of concern for the students who had sought his counsel and that, under the circumstances, the pastor apparently had no alternative.

The case attracted much attention in legal and religious circles. When the decision was announced, the story dominated the front pages of some of the larger newspapers in Japan. Observers called it "an epoch-making ruling."

Why did the case become such a big issue in Japan? Three explanations have been made: (1) a freedom-of-religion trial in Japan is extremely rare, and the decision is of fundamental importance to all religious groups, especially those not closely related to the state; (2) many Japanese people in Rev. Tanetani's position probably would have paid the fine as a matter of convenience rather than confront police and state power; in this sense Rev. Tanetani has become a rare example of unusual courage and faith; and (3) Rev. Tanetani not only persisted in his belief, but he also won; he illustrated not only that "faith moves mountains" but also that police power and state laws are not invincible.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL IN JAPAN

by Clark Offner

Phenomena of spiritual renewal accompanied by evidence of such charismata (spiritual gifts) as speaking in tongues (glossolalia) and healing have been noted in religious news items from various countries around the world. What previously had been considered the special characteristic of "Pentecostal Churches" has now found entry not only into the "mainline" Protestant denominations but into the Roman Catholic Church as well. In Japan, the influence of this movement has been conveyed primarily through a series of "Holy Spirit Seminars" which have been held annually since 1970.

The central figure in each of these seminars has been the Rev. Leslie Pritchard, a Pentecostal pastor from Canada, who has been accompanied by a team of other preachers and lecturers of various national and religious backgrounds. Former R.A.F. officer Pritchard, who organizes and finds the financial resources needed for these teams which



change each year, calls this ministry to Japan and other countries "Team Thrust." His contact man in Japan, who has handled the organizational details of the seminars, is the Rev. Marvin Fast, an independent missionary located near Nagoya who first came to Japan in 1958 under the Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Canada and who attended Pritchard's church in Vancouver during a furlough year.

The major Holy Spirit Seminars have been held in Otsu (1970-71) and Tokyo (1972-74) with related meetings held by team members in various other cities. Although the "out-leader" tends to place the emphasis upon the charismatic element, particularly that of glossolalia, active participants emphasize the spiritual renewal aspect, considering the tongues speaking merely an accompanying, albeit indispensable, sign of the spiritual fullness known as the "Baptism of the Spirit." Indeed, Mr. Pritchard's messages are initially focussed on the strengthening and deepening of love between Christians--to bring about the fulfilment of Jesus' prayer "that they all may be one" (Jn.17:21). Christian fellowship and the need for unity among believers is a theme running through these meetings, along with the need for increased spiritual power, more perfect obedience to God and bringing greater glory to him. It is emphasized that a genuine fulling or baptism of the Holy Spirit must result in greater love and understanding for others.

Biblical instruction on various subjects is presented at these seminars. For example, God's order for the Christian family, which must be followed to bring blessing to the home, as reflected in I Cor. 11:3 and other passages is: From Christ to the husband/father to the wife/mother to the children. The Womens Lib movement is not of God and much of the social confusion in the U.S. today is the result of ignoring the clear, biblical teaching regarding family order Pritchard asserts. The "teaching on baptisms" of Heb. 6:2 refers to : 1) John's baptism unto repentance, 2) Water baptism of Christians, 3) Baptism of suffering (Lk.12:49-50), 4) Baptism into the one body (I Cor.12:13) and 5) Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is interpreted in a very literal fashion, at least in the case of certain passages. Psalms calling on the people to "clap your hands," to "lift up your hands," to "praise the Lord," and to "sing for joy" are referred to as a pattern of biblical worship to be followed today. Previously, hands have already been raised in response to exhortations to those who "love Jesus," those who "want to serve God," etc. to indicate so in that manner. Hands are also employed to hold those of ones comrades on either side while singing special arrangements of the Psalms or choruses. Finally, the meeting may close with the exhortation to follow the oft repeated biblical injunction to "Greet one another with a holy kiss."

As to the place of glossolalia in these meetings, there are times of prayer when all present are able to pray together--whether in intelligible or unintelligible speech, in paean or song. Admonition is given to avoid the noisy, dissonant extremes of some overly-enthusiastic groups and to blend together in a spiritual symphony orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. All present are encouraged to take part with hands and voices raised in spiritual worship and praise. Although the stated aim of these seminars is to bring about unity among Christians and spiritual renewal, since the new life in the spirit or spiritual fullness is thought the "seeker" to this charisma becomes a concomitant, if unavowed, end in view. It is held that glossolalia was an important element in the New Testament Church and should be so today as well.

In an interview regarding the results of the Team Thrust ministry in Japan to date, Mr. Fast indicated that no special records are kept and no continuing organization is contemplated. However, the numbers attending the seminars have been increasing over the years to some 600 who gathered at the Hatsudai Roman Catholic Church in Tokyo last year. He stated that many pastors and missionaries have experienced a transformation in their lives as a result of these seminars, adding that there are few denominations in Japan that are without individuals or churches which have experienced this renewal. He considers the Roman Catholic-Protestant fellowship that has been generated by this renewal as a kind of fruit that the ecumenical movement has failed to produce. There is a monthly meeting of the Agape Kai in the Hatsudai Church as well as regular meetings on an interdenominational basis in other areas. Other results he mentioned were the mod-



erating influence upon an extreme type of Pentecostal worship in some churches and the widespread use of the Psalm arrangements and choruses of the seminars.

By its very nature, this movement is basically directed inward to the inner man or the Church, rather than outward to the world. In regard to any socially relevant outreach of this ministry, Mr. Fast referred to the Argentine church of Rev. Carlos Ortiz (a team member two years ago who was unable to return to Japan last year due to a breakdown) which contributes a tithe of its income to the poor and to Mr. Ortiz's consistent emphasis on sharing of one's possessions with those who have less. In response to the question of whether the charismatic movement may result in division within churches, Mr. Fast replied that the basic result is unifying rather than divisive and that if, in fact, division does occur it is usually in the form of transformed individuals not being accepted or being asked to leave their unsympathetic congregations.

Participants in the spiritual renewal testify to a change in outlook, deliverance from discouragement and despair, a deeper love and a sense of well being as well as a joyful experience of praising God in a new, liberating manner. The movement is still new and its long-term influence upon the lives of individual Christians of the Church in Japan remains to be seen.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CHRISTIAN WRITER RECEIVES TOP AWARD

by Akiko Yamaguchi

"Earthen Vessel", a short story by Hiroo Sakata, is one of two works to receive the coveted Akutagawa Prize for the first half of 1975. The prize is one of the most highly esteemed awards in the Japanese literary world.

Sakata's story (Tsuchi no Utsuwa) first appeared in the Bungakukai magazine last fall. The story describes the death of an elderly Christian woman and the reaction of her children, a daughter, a younger son who is a novelist and an elder son who is most practical businessman. The mother is a dedicated Christian who has always been active in various Christian groups including the temperance union. Her personality is strongly influenced by both the persistence of 19th century Japanese women and by her childhood contact with various missionaries.

The strong faith of this small woman sustains her even when she learns that she has terminal cancer. She considers it her duty to fight the suffering. Yet in the end she becomes only half-conscious and turns into herself and her life of suffering. However, her children, who had once thought of euthanasia, still recognize her smile as only a family can. Finally, the last moment comes....

Sakata's style, dry realistic, makes the story a kind of "modern requiem" in its lack of sentimentality.

The Protestant writer is well-known for his work as producer of the Christian Pavillion at Expo 70 and as a Christian hymn writer. Raised in a Christian home in Osaka, his mother, Mrs. Kyo Sakata, was well-known among Japanese Christian women for her dedication to local Church Women United and other Christian organizations.

Those who knew Mrs. Sakata say that her son's story describes her perhaps more vividly than any other tribute to her. The son's words remind us of one who would "go out to her work for the needy with the same steps as a young girl going to meet her lover"--forever with affection and respect.

Sakata shared the Akutagawa Prize with Keizo Hino whose story, "The Setting Sun," concerns a Japanese correspondent in Seoul who falls in love with a Korean girl.

\* \* \* \* \*



ASH--The Japanese government has responded to charges that the Rev. George E. Ogle is illegally detained here in mid-December (see JCAN #468, Feb. 14, 1975). The government inquiry concluded that it would be "inappropriate to recognize Ogle's confinement aboard the Korean aircraft as 'confinement,'" the Japan Times has reported. The government thus holds that the incident does not constitute a violation of national sovereignty, the inquiry said.

\* \* \* \* \*

EEP LISTENING--The money and personnel pinch has forced us to end publication of our Japan-only feature, "Ears to the World". To stay tuned in, we recommend the CCA News which gives excellent coverage of action for social justice in Asia and other news of Christians here. Airmail \$5.00 in Asia. Christian Conference of Asia, 480 Lorong Toa Payoh Singapore 12. Another good source of Christian news is ONE WORLD, World Council of Churches Publications Office, P.O. Box 66, 150 Route de Ferney 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland. One year \$6.00 or #2,500.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Headline-making Events

compiled by C. Koriyama

JAPAN PULLED INTO CHINA-SOVIET DISPUTES--Immediately after Japan's Foreign Minister Ichiro Miyazawa visited the Soviet Union (January 15-18) to exchange ideas on conclusion of the Japan-Soviet Peace Treaty, Shigeru Hori of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party traveled to China. At their meeting January 20, Prime Minister Chou En-lai appealed to Hori to promote the conclusion of the Sino-Japanese treaty of peace and amity.

Caught in the middle of Sino-Soviet antagonism, Japan in its diplomatic relations with both countries is experiencing some open blocking. On February 13, Soviet Ambassador to Japan Oleg Travankovsky urged Prime Minister Miki not to hasten the conclusion of the Japan-China Peace Treaty. At the same time, he conveyed Soviet Party leader Leonid Brezhnev's proposal that Japan and the USSR shelve the "Northern Territories" issue and conclude the Japan-Soviet Treaty of Neighborly Amity and Cooperation along with the peace treaty. The Soviets fear a Sino-Japanese treaty may include a joint statement by both countries opposing supremacy over Asia of any nation, sources in Tokyo suggest.

ROK RELEASES TWO JAPANESE--President Park Chung Hee of the Republic of Korea announced on February 15 the special pardon of two Japanese youths, arrested in April 1974 for alleged connections with the so-called National Federation of Democratic Youth and Students. Released were Masashi Tachikawa, 29, a free-lance journalist, and Yoshiharu Kayakawa, 38, a student at Seoul University. Park's action aims at easing Japan-ROK tensions generated by an alleged attempt on President Park's life (allegedly by a Korean resident in Japan and his Japanese supporters) and the abduction from Japan of Korean opposition leader Kim Dae Jun (allegedly by ROK agents), Tokyo papers observe. Others released include Catholic Bishop Daniel Chi and poet Kim Chi Ha.

GLOBEFISH KILLS KABUKI ACTOR--Mitsugoro Rando, a Kabuki actor, living national treasure, gourmet and published writer on cuisine, died January 16 from globefish poisoning. He had eaten enough globefish liver to kill four persons, reports stated. Although it is well known that the internal organs of globefish contain a deadly poison, Japanese over the centuries have been tempted--many fatally--by the delicious flavor.

SALE OF COLA DRINKS CURVES DOWN--Cola sales in Japan curved down in 1974 for the first time since sales were begun here, dropping 12-19% from figures recorded for the previous year. Until last year, sales had been increasing by 30% annually. The downturn may be caused by consumer suspicion over chemical additives as well as 1974 weather. Another possible factor--more people are turning to 100% natural fruit juice.

WHOLESALE PRICES DIP BY 0.4%; FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS--Japan's wholesale prices

- cont. -



dropped in January for the first time in three years. Sources in the Bank of Japan noted a decline of around 0.4% from December prices. The January downturn means that as far as wholesale prices are concerned, the target of the extended policy of tight economic management has finally been attained.

Meanwhile, with the recession rapidly worsening, industry is operating much under capacity. Some firms have annulled new employment contracts with graduating university students, others are pushing a policy of part-pay work furloughs, and there are many instances of long-term layoffs or shortened working hours. It is said that the noted Japanese system of lifetime employment cannot last long.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT FIGURE DOUBLES OVER TEN YEAR PERIOD--Enrollment at universities and junior colleges totals nearly 2,000,000 according to a report released by the Education Ministry. This is more than double the figure for ten years ago. Coeds accounted for 20.7% of the university students and for 85.5% of the junior college students, for a total of 625,000 women receiving higher education this year.

JAPANESE WOMAN, 79, TRAVELS TO ANTARCTICA to tie the world record for oldest visitor to the white continent. Mrs. Teruko Saito, widow of the famous poet Mokicki Saito, is an enthusiastic traveler with more than 100 different countries to her credit over the last 15 years. She left Japan on this most recent adventure in late December as part of an American-organized group tour.

Why travel? She has been curious about unknown areas, she says, and if she were young, would become a travel agent or an explorer. Also, while traveling overseas she can go without meeting people and so can "have a dialogue with nature" in the countries she visits.